

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 00152 101809Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-14 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00  
DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 /108 W  
-----107635 110254Z /75

R 101350Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7733

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 0152

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: TPHY, CI  
SUBJ: CHILEAN PLANS FOR A NEW BASE IN THE ANTARCTIC

REF: 77 SANTIAGO 189

1. ONE YEAR AFTER PUBLISHING CHILEAN INTENTIONS TO BUILD A FOURTH ANTARCTIC SCIENTIFIC BASE, IN SANTIAGO'S LA TERCERA, DIRECTOR OF THE CHILEAN ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE (INACH) CAPITAN DE FRAGATA (R) HERNAN LORCA FULLER RELEASED VIRTUALLY THE SAME STORY REPORTED IN REFTEL TO EL MERCURIO ON JANUARY 8, 1978. THE SITE OF THE BASE WAS AGAIN DESCRIBED AS MARGARITA BAY IN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY CLAIMED BY CHILE. THE BASE WILL HAVE BOTH AN OCEAN PORT AND AIR LANDING FACILITIES AND WILL USE THE O'HIGGINS BASE FOR OPERATIONAL AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT. AIR SERVICE TO THE NEW BASE AS WELL AS THE O'HIGGINS AND FREI BASES WILL BE HANDLED BY THE CHILEAN AIR FORCE (FACH) FROM PUERTO WILLIAMS USING TWIN OTTER AIRCRAFT THAT FACH PLANS TO PURCHASE. EL MERCURIO QUOTED LORCA AS SAYING THAT CHILE WILL REINFORCE ITS PRESENCE IN THE ANTARCTIC BY REOCCUPYING BASES THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY IN USE. IN THE FUTURE, GREATER EMPHASIS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE STUDY OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE ANTARCTIC. BIOLOGICAL STUDIES WILL ALSO OCCUR YEAR-ROUND RATHER THAN JUST THE SUMMER PERIODS AS IS PRESENTLY DONE.

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2. EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICER CALLED LORCA TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE GOC WAS ACTUALLY COMMITTED TO CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW BASE OR WHETHER LORCA WAS AGAIN TRYING TO GENERATE INTEREST IN THE PLAN BY PUBLICIZING IT. LORCA ADMITTED THAT THE NEW BASE WAS STILL MORE A DREAM THAN A REALITY. THE GOC HAS NOT COMMITTED FUNDS TO THE BASE AND THE PROJECT HAS NOT PROGRESSED BEYOND THE POINT WHERE IT WAS A YEAR AGO. LORCA AGAIN GAVE THE IMPRESSION

THAT SUPPORT FOR HIS PLAN WITHIN THE GOC WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE  
FORTHCOMING WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RESEARCH  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978SANTIA00152  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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